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Security Council

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Note verbale dated 11 August 2016 from the Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Office of the President of the Security Council, and, in its capacity as the coordinator of the group of African States members of the Security Council, has the pleasure to attach herewith the communiqué adopted by the African Union Peace and Security Council on 11 August 2016, on the situation in South Sudan (see annex) and to kindly request that the communiqué be circulated as a document of the Council.

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Annex to the note verbale dated 11 August 2016 from the Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

11 August 2016

The Permanent Observer Mission of the African Union to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Permanent Mission of Egypt, coordinator of the African members of the Security Council and, has the honour to transmit herewith the communiqué adopted by the African Union Peace and Security Council at its 616th meeting, held today, 11 August 2016, on the situation in South Sudan (see enclosure).

The Permanent Observer Mission of the African Union is kindly requesting the Permanent Mission of Egypt to facilitate the circulation of the communiqué as a document of the Security Council.

Enclosure

Communiqué

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union, at its 616th meeting held on 11 August 2016, adopted the following decision on the situation in South Sudan:

The Council,

1. Takes note of the briefing provided by the African Union Commission and the statements made by representatives of South Sudan and Ethiopia in its capacity as the Chair of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD);

2. Recalls its previous communiqués and press statements on the situation in South Sudan, in particular the communiqué (PSC/PR/1(DCXII)) adopted at its 611th meeting, held on 11 July 2016, in Kigali, Rwanda, as well as the decision of the 27th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union on the situation in South Sudan, also held in Kigali, Rwanda, on 18 July 2016;

3. Once again, expresses serious concern over the outbreak of fighting that took place on 7 July 2016 in Juba, resulting in loss of lives, a dire humanitarian crisis and other tragic consequences for civilians and strongly condemns human rights violations, including sexual violence against women and girls. Council calls for the necessary investigations to be carried out, in order to bring the perpetrators to justice;

4. Commends the IGAD Plus for its continued leadership and unwavering commitment to the search for a sustainable resolution to the crisis in South Sudan. In this context, the Council welcomes the convening, on 5 August 2016, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, of the Second Extraordinary Summit of IGAD Plus on the situation in South Sudan and endorses the decisions contained in its communiqué, in particular:

(a) The call for an urgent in-depth independent investigation by the African Union on the fighting that took place in Juba and to identify those responsible with a view of ensuring that they are held accountable for their criminal acts;

(b) The request to the African Union Commission, in consultation with the United Nations, and building on existing regional and continental capabilities, to look into the best mechanisms for timely and effective action to address large-scale mass atrocities in line with the relevant provisions of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, and Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations;

(c) The call for the Security Council to extend the United Nations Mission in South Sudan with a revised mandate including the deployment of the Regional Protection Force;

(d) The acceptance, in principle, by the Government of the Republic of South Sudan of the deployment of the Regional Protection Force; and

(e) The decision encouraging Dr. Riek Machar to rejoin the peace process and the commitment by General Taban Deng Gai to step down upon the return of Dr. Machar with a view to returning to the status quo ante in line with the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan;

5. Requests IGAD to provide an update to the meeting of the Peace and Security Council scheduled to take place on 18 August 2016, on the outcomes of the meeting of the Regional Chiefs of Defence Staff, which is scheduled to take place on Friday, 12 August 2016, in Addis Ababa;

6. Commends the sterling efforts, in very challenging circumstances, of the African Union High Representative for South Sudan, former President Alpha Oumar Konaré, and the Chairman of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission, former President Festus Mogae, and continues to encourage them to persevere in their work in support of the peace efforts in South Sudan;

7. Once again calls upon the parties to the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan to embrace mutual trust, put the interest of their country and its people above everything else and scrupulously implement the Peace Agreement;

8. Decides to dedicate a meeting, every month, to the situation in South Sudan with a view to monitoring progress on the implementation of the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan and calls upon the African Union Commission to remain fully engaged in consultations on the modalities for the deployment of the Regional Protection Force in South Sudan;

9. Decides to remain actively seized of the matter.